

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14-16 are pending in the application; claims 12-13 are canceled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-9, 14, 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Mitzel* (US 4,269,405). Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Comiani et al.* (US 6,290,453). Claims 1, 2, 12, 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fick* (DE 4200 186).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 13 so that the above rejections no longer apply.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 12 and 13 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on September 26, 2005,


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